

Message Text

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ACTION MCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 SY-05 SCS-03 SCA-01
FAA-00 DOTE-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 PRS-01 /061 W
-----054626 251748Z /53

R 251631Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7628
INFO FAA BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 24751

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINS, PORS, FR
SUBJ: INFORMATION ON AMCITS INVOLVED IN AIRCRAFT
HIJACKINGS

REF: STATE 197921

1. SITUATION IN PARIS, AND POST PROCEDURES
FOR OBTAINING INFORMATION ON AMCITS INVOLVED IN
AIRCRAFT HIJACKINGS, DESCRIBED BELOW. WHILE
WE AGREE IN PRINCIPLE ON DESIRABILITY IMMEDIATE
AND AUTOMATIC DETERMINATION OF NAMES OF ALL
AMERICAN CITIZENS INVOLVED, WE FEEL CONSTRAINED
TO NOTE THAT, FOR REASONS SET FORTH BELOW, THIS
WILL RARELY BE POSSIBLE FOR FLIGHTS ORIGINATING
IN PARIS. WE SUSPECT THE SAME MAY BE TRUE FOR
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MOST WESTERN EUROPEAN AIRPORTS.

2. NORMALLY, THE ONLY IDENTIFICATION OF
PASSENGERS ABOARD HIJACKED AIRCRAFT ORIGINATING
AT THE TWO PARIS AIRPORTS (CDG & ORLY) IS THE
AIRLINE TICKET, WHICH SHOWS ONLY NAMES (BUT NOT
NATIONALITY), FLIGHT NUMBERS, AND EMBARKATION AND

DESTINATION POINTS. EXCEPTIONS ARE FLIGHTS TO CAIRO, TEL AVIV, MOSCOW, AND PEKING, WHERE PASSENGERS MUST FILL OUT EMBARKATION CARDS WITH NAME, DATE OF BIRTH, NATIONALITY, FLIGHT NUMBER, EMBARKATION AND DESTINATION POINTS. SUCH EMBARKATION CARDS MAY ALSO BE REQUIRED ON AN AD HOC BASIS FROM PASSENGERS TO SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES OR THE MIDDLE EAST AT TIMES WHEN UNUSUAL POLITICAL CONDITIONS PREVAIL.

3. EMBARKATION CARDS ARE COLLECTED BY THE POLICE DE L'AIR AT PASSPORT CONTROL. IN THE CASE OF A HIJACKING INVOLVING A CARRIER ORIGINATING FROM CDG OR ORLY, AND WHERE EMBARKATION CARDS WERE USED, POLICE PERSONNEL WILL SORT OUT THE CARDS AND CLASSIFY THEM BY FLIGHT NUMBER AND EVENTUALLY PASSENGER NAMES AND NATIONALITIES. THIS IS DONE MANUALLY WITH AVAILABLE PERSONNEL, A PROCESS THAT MAY REQUIRE SEVERAL HOURS, ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT WHEN WORK FORCE IS REDUCED. (IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN 12 HOURS IN THE CASE OF THE RECENT AIR FRANCE AIRBUS PARIS-CAIRO HIJACK.)

4. THE EMBASSY NORMALLY RECEIVES FIRST WORD OF A HIJACKING FROM THE DEPARTMENT OR OTHER POSTS OR CONFIDENTIAL

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FROM OUR NEWS AGENCY TICKERS. IF THE HIJACKED FLIGHT IS FROM A FRANCE-BASED OPERATOR, ORIGINATED FROM FRENCH TERRITORY, OR IS ON OR ENROUTE TO FRENCH TERRITORY, OUR C&R SECTION AND THE TICKER MONITORS ARE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO NOTIFY THE CIVAIR ATTACHE, FAA REPRESENTATIVE AND MINECON, ONE OF WHOM WILL ESTABLISH IMMEDIATE LIAISON WITH THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AND AIRLINES. THE FAA REPRESENTATIVE IS ALSO UNDER STANDING FAA INSTRUCTIONS TO ALERT THE FAA BRUSSELS REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF ANY HIJACKINGS COMING TO HIS ATTENTION THAT OCCUR IN, OR ARE EXPECTED TO PENETRATE, HIS GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY. THIS INFORMATION IS THEN FED TO THE COMMUNICATIONS CONTROL CENTER IN FAA HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON. IF THE FIRST ALERT IS RECEIVED DURING NON-WORKING HOURS THE EMBASSY AND CONSULAR DUTY OFFICERS ARE ALSO INFORMED AND MAY BE CALLED IN TO ASSIST.

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INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 PRS-01 /061 W
-----054737 251748Z /53

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7629

INFO FAA BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 24751

5. THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE AND AUTOMATIC WAY
TO OBTAIN THE NAMES OF AMCITS ON HIJACKED AIRCRAFT
SINCE THE EMBASSY DEPENDS ON THE POLICE DE L'AIR
OR THE AIRLINE TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION. EXCEPT
ON FLIGHTS SPECIFIED IN PARA 2, THE POLICE WOULD
BE UNABLE TO IDENTIFY NATIONALITY, AND THE AIRLINE
COULD DO SO FROM THE TICKET STUBS ONLY BY TIME-
CONSUMING RESEARCH AND GUESSWORK. IN A TENSE
ON-GOING HIJACK SITUATION, PLACING TOO MUCH PRESSURE
ON THE AUTHORITIES FOR INFORMATION THEY MAY NOT HAVE
IN HAND CAN BE HIGHLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. ESTABLISHING
THE IDENTITY AND NATIONALITY OF PASSENGERS FOR A
FOREIGN GOVERNMENT IS A DISTRACTING AND RELATIVELY
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LOW PRIORITY TASK FOR PERSONNEL DEALING WITH AN
ON-GOING HIJACK, AND PRESSING FOR SUCH INFORMATION MAY

SERVE TO CUT OFF ALL COMMUNICATIONS, SO EMBASSY
OFFICERS MUST EXERCISE THEIR OWN JUDGMENT IN
DETERMINING HOW FAR TO GO IN SUCH SITUATIONS.
FRAGMENTARY INFORMATION ON NATIONALITY AND NEXT OF
KIN MAY BE OBTAINABLE IN ISOLATED CASES FROM
AIRPORT INSURANCE VENDORS.

6. IN THOSE CASES WHERE THE NATIONALITY OF
PASSENGERS IS NOT ON RECORD, PERHAPS OUR BEST COURSE
WOULD BE TO COMMUNICATE THE NAMES OF ALL (RPT ALL)
PASSENGERS AND CREW TO THE DEPARTMENT BY
IMMEDIATE CABLE AS SOON AS THIS INFORMATION CAN BE
OBTAINED. THIS WOULD AT LEAST PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT
WITH MATERIAL TO RESPOND TO INQUIRIES. REQUEST
CONFIRMATION IF THIS PROCEDURE IS TO BE FOLLOWED.
ALSO REQUEST INFORMATION ON HOW DEPARTMENT FIRST
LEARNED OF AUGUST 12 AF HIJACKING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, CITIZEN PROTECTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS24751
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770307-0869
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770824/aaaaatjd.tel
Line Count: 188
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bf607053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION MCT
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 197921
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1486938
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INFORMATION ON AMCITS INVOLVED IN AIRCRAFT HIJACKINGS
TAGS: PINS, PORS, FR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bf607053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009